



A M E R I C A N C O M P O S E R S F O R U M

NATIONAL OFFICE:

332 Minnesota Street, Suite E-145 • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-1300 USA

Telephone: [651] 228-1407 • Fax: [651] 291-7978

E-mail: mail@composersforum.org • Web site:

www.composersforum.org

Continental Harmony Premiere in Kenai and Homer, Alaska New Composition Celebrates Nature and Life on Kenai Peninsula

March 16, 2007
For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:

Carey Nadeau, American Composers Forum, 651-251-2814, cnadeau@composersforum.org,

Laura Norton, Kenai Peninsula Orchestra, 907-299-2453, kpoalaska@gmail.com

St. PAUL, Minn., March 16, 2007— Composer Adrienne Albert's new *Continental Harmony* composition titled *An Alaskan Symphony* will premiere as part of the 25th Anniversary of the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra April 28 in Kenai at the René C. Henderson Auditorium at 7:30 and April 29 in Homer at the Mariner Theatre at 3:00 p.m. General admission for the concerts is \$18; Raven's Club members, \$15; seniors, \$16; students, \$10; and families, \$52. In addition to the premiere of *An Alaskan Symphony*, the concert will also feature the Beethoven *Triple Concerto in C Major* and Schubert's *Mass No. 2 in G Major* and performers include the Kenai Peninsula Community Chorus and Homer High School Concert Choir in addition to the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra.

The concerts April 28 and 29 will present all three movements of Albert's *An Alaskan Symphony*. The first movement, *Facing the Elements*, was premiered at the orchestra's Summer Music Festival Gala Concerts in August 2006, and the second movement, *Animalogy*, was premiered June 16, 2006 at the Pratt Museum in Homer by a woodwind quintet. April will be the first time that the symphony will be performed in its entirety as the third movement, *A Place Called Home*, makes its debut with the Homer High School Concert Choir, Kenai Peninsula Community Chorus and the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra.

Albert began her *Continental Harmony* project by visiting the communities along the Kenai Peninsula and getting to know the people that inhabit these areas. After gaining the knowledge of the history and richness of this region, she went to work writing a piece of music that weaves together the many cultures represented in these communities living together with the surrounding nature and animal life. According to composer Albert, "Working on this *Continental Harmony* Project with the wonderful people of the Kenai Peninsula has been a dream come true. Although I've always loved to travel and experience new things, I had no idea that the wanderlust in me to see and do as much as possible would be transformed into a musical work. As beautiful as the Kenai Peninsula is, this experience ultimately became about the people who live in this place."

This project is sponsored by the Kenai Peninsula Orchestra in partnership with the Pratt Museum and Pier One Theatre, as part of the American Composers Forum's *Continental Harmony* project. According to Kenai Peninsula Orchestra Artistic Director Mark Robinson, "The incredible thing about this work is that

(more)

it is not only for us but about us. It is humbling and exciting to have a composer of Adrienne Albert's caliber compose about both where we live and who we are. It is very rewarding to have a tangible musical expression of our wonderful Kenai Peninsula.”

The Kenai Peninsula Orchestra combines players from Homer, Kenai/Soldotna and Seward. Players from other areas of Alaska and beyond join in as they are needed or able. Rehearsals usually involve round-trip travel of 70 miles or more; seldom are all the players together at the same time before a concert! The musicians in this orchestra are all volunteers and generally are not professionals, although some have been or could be if they chose. They play for the love of the music and joy of ensemble work.

Continental Harmony has been recognized as a model of local community artistic initiative. The initiative has been launched by the American Composers Forum in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts as a way of bringing composers and communities together each for the creation of original musical works reflecting the unique history, culture and spirit of community. Each host site identifies a theme, an occasion, and local performers for a musical work that will be meaningful to its citizens. With the assistance of American Composers Forum, the community group then selects the composer best able to write the music and carry out the residency.

During the inaugural round of the program in the year 2000, American Composers Forum discovered that *Continental Harmony* projects bring people together, heighten community feeling and sense of place, and encourage the formation of collaborations among groups. At the same time the artistic resources of the area are often strengthened and validated. As a result of this inaugural round, Twin Cities Public Television created an award-winning documentary and website. For more information, visit www.continentalharmony.org

Continental Harmony is a leadership initiative of the American Composers Forum and the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional funding provided by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Rockefeller Foundation, and Marshall Field's Project Imagine with support from the Target Foundation.

###